

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

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SUEDE

2005-05-20
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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

24.05.2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference
W5039-020 JA

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/006405

International filing date (day/month/year)
15.06.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
26.06.2003

Applicant
SONY ERICSSON MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS AB et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary report on patentability and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. **REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:



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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference W5039-020 JA		FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/PEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2004/006405		International filing date (day/month/year) 15.06.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 26.06.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H01H25/04				
Applicant SONY ERICSSON MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS AB et al.				
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau a total of 2 sheets, as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>				
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>				
Date of submission of the demand 26.04.2005		Date of completion of this report 24.05.2005		
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016		Authorized Officer Ruppert, H Telephone No. +31 70 340-1987		



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/006405

IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 22 DEC 2005

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

Description, Pages

1-9 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-9 received on 29.04.2005 with letter of 26.04.2005

Drawings, Sheets

1/5-5/5 as originally filed

- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
 4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/006405

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)**

PCT/EP2004/006405

Re Item V**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: EP-A-0 750 274 (SUMITOMO WIRING SYSTEMS) 27 December 1996 (1996-12-27)

Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses a switch dome device from which the subject-matter of claim 1 differs in that the outputs of adjacent switch domes are operatively connected to inputs of a common AND-circuit, wherein said switch dome device is responsive only to two adjacent switch domes actuated at a time.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as providing an alternative joystick-device which exclusively operates upon simultaneous operation of two adjacent switch domes.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

No hint for this solution could be found in the present prior art.

Claims 2-9 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

10/561688

IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 22 DEC 2005

CLAIMS

1. A switch dome device for operating functions in an electronic equipment (10), said device comprising a set of switch domes (4) mounted in a circular pattern on a support structure (5), **characterized** in that outputs of adjacent switch domes (4) are operatively connected to inputs of a common AND circuit (9), wherein said switch dome device is arranged to be responsive to only two adjacent switch domes actuated at a time for operating a function.

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2. A switch dome device according to claim 1, wherein said switch domes (4) are equally distributed around said circular pattern with the same distance to the centre (8) of said circular pattern.

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3. A switch dome device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said set of switch domes comprises eight switch domes (4).

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4. An input device (1) for operating functions in an electronic equipment (10), comprising a switch dome device and a switch dome actuator (2) for actuating switch domes (4), **characterized** in that said switch dome device is a switch dome device according to any of the claims 1-3.

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5. An input device according to claim 4, wherein said actuator (1) is a rocker key provided with actuator bosses (6) for actuating said switch domes (4).

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6. An input device according to claim 4, wherein said actuator (1) is a joystick.

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7. An electronic equipment, **characterized** by an input device (1) according to any of the claims 4-6.

8. An electronic equipment according to claim 7,
wherein the switch domes (4) are positioned on the support
structure (5) on 22,5/67,5/112,5/157,5/
202,5/247,5/292,5/337,5° positions around the circular
5 pattern with respect to the orientation of a display (11)
of the electronic equipment held in a position for normal
operation by a user.

9. An electronic equipment according to claim 7 or 8,
10 wherein the electronic equipment is a mobile radio terminal
(10).